

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 01043 071716Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 OIC-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05
SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 L-03 H-01 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01
OES-06 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 /111 W
-----071836Z 084170 /46

R 071530Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3338
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMCONGEN BELIZE

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EFIN, ETRD, ECLA, PFOR, CI, CR
SUBJ: PLANS FOR BIENNIAL ECLA SESSION IN GUATEMALA CITY

REF: A) STATE 018370 B) SANTIAGO 00475

1. SUMMARY. EMBOFF HAS DISCUSSED IN SOME DEPTH ECLA MANAGE-
MENT'S PLANS FOR GUATEMALA CITY SESSION. AT THIS JUNCTURE
BELIZE SOVEREIGNTY SEEN AS POTENTIALLY MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM
FACING ORGANIZERS OF MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. ON FEB 3 EMBOFF MET WITH JORGE VITERI, ECLA CHEF DE CABINET,
TO DISCUSS, AT LATTER'S INVITATION, ORGANIZATION OF ECLA MEETING
IN GUATEMALA CITY TO BEGIN APRIL 25. ECLA EXEC SECRETARY
ENRIQUE IGLESIAS IS EAGER TO AVOID WHERE POSSIBLE, AND OTHERWISE
TO MINIMIZE, TENDENTIOUSNESS WHICH AS CHARACTERIZED SOME PRE-
VIOUS MEETINGS. ECLA MANAGEMENT HOPES TO STRUCTURE SESSION SO
AS TO KEEP DELEGATES' ATTENTION FOCUSED ON REAL ECLA ISSUES AND
AWAY FROM DIVISIVE POLITICAL ISSUES.

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 01043 071716Z

3. VITERI SAID THAT ECLA AGENDA SHOULD CONSIST OF FIVE
PARTS: EVALUATION OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (IDS);
ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES AND BETWEEN REGIONS;
AND WORK PROGRAMS OF ECLA, ILPES, AND CELADE. TWO TECHNICAL
COMMITTEES WOULD BE ESTABLISHED, COMMITTEE I TO TREAT IDS AND
ECON COOPERATION AND COMMITTEE II, WORK PROGRAMS OF ECLA AND
ECLA AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS. PLENARY SESSIONS WOULD BE

LIMITED TO LAST THREE DAYS OF MEETING.

4. IT IS ECLA MANAGEMENT'S HOPE THAT THIS ORGANIZATION WILL KEEP DISCUSSIONS LARGELY GEARED TO ECLA'S MANDATE AND THAT PROPOSALS FOR NEW STUDIES, FOR WHICH ECLA UNEQUIPPED, AND FOR NEW ECLA COMMITTEES CAN BE FINESSED. ECLA MANAGEMENT IS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT A PROFIFERATING WORK LOAD ORIGINATING IN ILL CONSIDERED RESOLUTIONS AT VARIOUS UN BODY MEETINGS WHICH DIVERT RESOURCES AWAY FROM PRINCIPAL PROGRAM. VITERI CITED PREPARATORY REGIONAL DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE AS EXAMPLE OF WORK THRUST ON ECLA, FOR WHICH IT LACKS BOTH RESOURCES AND EXPERTISE, IN ADDITION TO BEING ISSUE OF PERIPHERAL INTEREST TO REGION AS A WHOLE.

5. ECLA MANAGEMENT ALSO HOPES THAT IT CAN STEER SESSIONS AWAY FROM CONTENTIOUS DEBATE ON INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS, ESPECIALLY AS DISCUSSION WOULD LIKELY GET BOGGED DOWN IN EXCLUSIVITY ISSUE (DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTICIPATION IN COMMITTEES AND CONFERENCES). ABOVE ALL ECLA WANTS TO AVOID PROPOSALS FOR NEW COMMITTEES WHICH ECLA SEES AS DISTINCTLY NOT NECESSARY.

6. THE MOST TICKLISH PROBLEM FACING MEETING ORGANIZERS IS WHAT TO DO ABOUT EXPECTED EFFORT BY BELIZE TO PROMOTE ITS CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY AT EXPENSE OF GUATEMALAN HOSTS. ECLA ANTICIPATES THAT BELIZE PRIME MINISTER WILL DECIDE TO ATTEND MEETING. IGLESIAS IS WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES WITH BELIZE, GUATEMALA, AND UK GOVERNMENTS TO ACHIEVE MODUS VIVENDI WHICH WILL ALLOW WORK OF MEETING TO PROCEED NORMALLY. ALSO, LIMITING PLENARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SANTIA 01043 071716Z

SESSIONS TO LAST THREE DAYS OF MEETING SHOULD DETER ARRIVE OF BELIZE PM, ASSUMING HE COMES, TO END OF MEETING. THS WILL GIVE ECLA STAFF BETTER OPORTUNITY TO DEFUSE THIS ISSUE, AS WELL AS OTHERS, OF EXPLOSIVE POTENTIAL IF IT SHOULD APPEAR TO BE HEADED THAT WAY.

7. VITERI THINKS THAT IF BELIZE ISSUE GETS OUT OF CONTROL (TRINIDAD, JAMAICA, PANAMA, AND CUBA, HE SAYS, ARE HIGHLY CHARGED ON ISSUE), THE DOOR WILL BE OPENED TO ACRIMONIOUS EXCHANGES ON PUERTO RICA, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND OTHER EXTRANEIOUS ISSUES. ECLA SECRETARIAT IS THUS MAKING ALL OUT EFFORT TO INSURE CONFERENCE KEEPS TO COURSE PRESCRIBED BY ORGANIZERS.

8. COMMITTE OF HIGH LEVEL GOVERNMENT EXPERTS FROM ECLA DEVELOPING MEMBERS WILL MEET MARCH 9-15, AS REPORTED IN REFTTEL A. POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANTIA01043
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770043-0539
Format: TEL
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770266/aaaacgmy.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d200d9ca-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 18370, 77 SANTIAGO 475
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3390110
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PLANS FOR BIENNIAL ECLA SESSION IN GUATEMALA CITY
TAGS: EFIN, ETRD, PFOR, CI, CR, ECLA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d200d9ca-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009